

The Hong Kong Daily Press.

No. 9011

號一零九千第

日十二月十年二十號光

HONGKONG, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15th, 1886.

一拜禮

號五十十英港香

[P. \$2.50 PER MONTH]

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.
November 13. MENZELIN, French steamer, 1,972. C. Batais, Yokohama 6th November, Mails and General—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

November 13. OXUS, French steamer, 3,675. Lequed, Shanghai 11th November, Mails and General—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

November 13. REYNOLDS, Whampoa 13th November, General—SIENNESS & CO.

November 13. GLASLAND, British steamer, 1,063. Wm. Potts, Whampoa 13th November, General—SIENNESS & CO.

November 13. VELUX, German steamer, 636. M. Kallion, Saigon 4th November, Bicos and Pudding—ED SCHELLHANS & CO.

November 13. DIOMED, British steamer, 1,456. W. B. Biggs, Shanghai via Foochow and Swatow 7th November, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

November 13. HAIPHONG, British steamer, 1,122. Ashton, Foochow 10th November, Amoy 11th, and Swatow 12th, General—DOUGLAS LAFAIK & CO.

November 13. WOLF, German gunboat, Jassechka, Amoy 8th November.

November 13. AVA, French steamer, 2,147. Vincent, Marseilles 8th October, via Port Said, Suez, Iden, Colombo, Singapore, and Saigon 10th November, Mails and General—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

November 13. SARPEDON, British str., 1,593. H. Chirino, London 23rd September, and Singapore 6th November, General—BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE.

November 13. THEODOR BUGER, German ship, 1,576. S. C. Meyer, Yokohama 5th Nov., Ballast—MELCHERS & CO.

November 14. BATAVIA, British bark, 367. Nilsson, Newchong 4th Nov., Bicos—CHINESE.

November 14. HESPERIA, German str., 1,186. C. Christiansen, Kobe 8th November, General—SIENNESS & CO.

November 14. CAIRNGORM, British str., 1,163. W. H. Pease, Bangkok 4th November, General—GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.

November 14. CHAZE, British steamer, 1,764. J. Johnson, Glasgow via Liverpool 26th Sept., and Singapore 11th Nov., General—ADAMSON, BELL & CO.

November 14. CANTON, British steamer, 1,110. J. Bremner, Shanghai 11th Nov., General—JADEINE, MATTHEWS & CO.

November 14. CHI-YUEN, Chinese steamer, 1,211. W. H. Hunt, Wuhsu and Chinkiang 10th November, Bicos—C. M. S. N. CO.

November 14. BELISIC, British steamer, 4,212. Walker, San Francisco 19th Oct., and Yoko-hama 9th Nov., Mails and General—O. & O. S. S. CO.

November 14. MEE-FOO, Chinese steamer, 1,338. Peterson, Whampoa 14th November, General—C. M. S. N. CO.

November 14. PECHIL, British steamer, 827. Payne, Whampoa 14th November, General—JADEINE, MATTHEWS & CO.

November 14. KILLANEY, British str., 1,690. H. O'Neill, Whampoa 14th Nov., General—GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.

November 14. FU-TSOU, Chinese steamer, 930. Wauchope, Whampoa 14th Nov., General—C. M. S. N. CO.

CLEARANCES.
AT THE HARBOURMASTER'S OFFICE,
13TH NOVEMBER.

Gorda, German str., for Chefoo.
Welle, German str., for Hokow.
Deutzen, German str., for Saigon.
Chang Hock Kian, British str., for Swatow.
Formosa, British str., for Swatow.
Glasland, British str., for Swatow.
Dieden, British str., for Singapore.
Lee Koh, Danish brig, for Tonkin.
Tunison, British str., for Wuhu.
Gorda, British str., for Yokohama.
Gratitud, British str., for Kuching.

DEPARTURES.

November 13. GAELIC, British steamer, for San Francisco.

November 13. GLASLAND, British steamer, for Shanghai.

November 13. HANGCHOW, British steamer, for Whampoa.

November 13. WELLINGBOROUGH, German str., for Whampoa.

November 14. CHI-YUEN, Chinese steamer, for Whampoa.

November 14. CANTON, British str., for Whampoa.

November 14. DIOMED, British str., for London.

November 14. TANTALON, British steamer, for Wuhu.

November 14. FORMOSA, British steamer, for Taiwan.

November 14. CHEUNG HOCK KIAN, British str., for Swatow.

November 14. DEUTZEN, German steamer, for Saigon.

November 14. WELLE, German str., for Hoitow.

November 14. GECKA, German str., for Chefoo.

PASSENGERS ARRIVED.

Per Ozus, str., from Shanghai.—For Hong Kong, Mr. and Mrs. Engelsbach, Mrs. Walther, and daughter, Dr. Ayer Major Cochran and servant, Messrs. Smith, Smith, O'Brien, John Ward, Moly and servant, and 1 Chinese. For Saigon—Messrs. Biddle, Soale and Clark. For Singapore—Mr. and Mrs. Albert. For Marseilles—Miss Hanson, Admiral Fieldman, Messrs. Moss, Anderson, Alice Beau, Edith, Rommet, and Amy. For Manila, str., from Yokohama, &c. For Hong Kong, Mr. and Mrs. D. Marshall, Henry Andrew, John Houston, and 2 sons, from Yokohama.—Mrs. Blanche, Head Miss, Goss, Smith and Wilson, and 2 Japanese ladies. For Nanjing—Rev. Legrand and Mr. Forsyth from Yokohama.

Per Haiphong, str., from East Coast.—Messrs. Marshall, McLean, Jackson, Bramwell, Shepherd, Graham, Smith, Lloyd, Foss, Keble, & Dryden, 120 Chinese deck.

Per Canton, str., from British West Indies, Kennedy, and Pearce, and 37 Chinese.

Per Amoy, str., for Hongkong, from Manilles—Mr. Just, a child, and nurse, Capt. G. C. Harmon, from Batavia.—Messrs. Franco, Sella, Raphael, das Dores, and Elias A. de Sola, and 240 Delarocca, Messrs. Kousser, and Bonsu, and 200 other members of a French Opera Company, from Saigon.—3 Chinese, 160 marines, and 60 sailors, from Manila, str., from Batavia.

Per Manila, str., from Batavia.—Messrs. Marquis, Teng and Marchionne, Teng and family and wife, Messrs. Liu, J. Taylor, Tchang, Wang, Tchang, Wan, Tong, Tiong, Ly, Tchang, J. Kruger, J. Clark, Van Aerstel, J. Courbon, and 200 others, from Batavia.

Per Foochow, str., from Saigon.—Rev. Gott, Mr. Marshall, Jr., and Misses Partridge, for Yokohama.

Per Manila, str., from Batavia.

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The motion that the Company close up and hand over its affairs to the Hongkong Steam Launch Company from the 13th November was then put and carried nem con.

Mr. WOOD, asked if there were any other debts outstanding besides that due to the Hongkong Steam Laundry Company.

Mr. FRASER-SMITH replied that the report which had been presented was not a report for adoption, but simply the information of shareholders. The final report would be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. LEWIS said he had another resolution to propose and that was that all the uncollected debts of the Company be at once made up by the Secretary of the Company and sent for signature either to himself (Mr. Legge) or any other shareholder in the room who might be named by Mr. McCULLOCH.

Mr. FRASER-SMITH said the workpeople would have to pay.

Mr. LEGGE said he would collect the money and hand it over to the directors to pay the wages as soon as it was collected.

Mr. CRAWFORD asked if there were any wages due to the men.

Mr. HURLEY said the reason was that the wages were not paid till the middle of the month.

Mr. CRAWFORD said the account was not correct if a liability of \$300 was omitted. The account was sent to the shareholders in the morning, giving them no time to look into it.

Mr. FRASER-SMITH said any business man must admit the common sense of Mr. Crawford's remarks.

Mr. CRAWFORD—I am sorry to have to make them.

Mr. FRASER-SMITH said he had been under the impression of the account included everything up to the 31st October, and that was not the case. He had given his account to the meeting. He could only express his astonishment Mr. Gourdin could have put his name to such an account as auditor.

Mr. VANCE and Mr. Gourdin could only audit what was put before him.

Mr. FRASER-SMITH thought an auditor ought to have discovered the omission.

Mr. MCULLOCH in reply to a question, said there was no account sent to him last month, but there were some for the present month.

Mr. FRASER-SMITH said he understood it was a first principle of book-keeping that an account should include everything up to the date to which the account was made up.

Mr. CRAWFORD said that what Mr. Smith had just said was not applicable in the case of an account presented to a meeting where it was proposed to wind up a Company. He thought Mr. Legge's proposition that he or someone else should collect the debts an extraordinary one, but after hearing what he had heard he would second the proposition with pleasure.

Mr. FRASER-SMITH said the proposition was absurd.

Mr. MCULLOCH said he would allow Mr. Crawford to second it. After Mr. Crawford's remarks it was better that he should do so.

Mr. HURLEY said he would propose an amendment. He objected in *facto* to the proposal, because it appeared as if Mr. Legge were trying to throw some air on the way he had been doing the business. He had asked for a few days' notice, upon which they had been audited by Mr. Gourdin, and everything had been found in order except this one little omission.

Mr. LEGGE—I am sorry to have to make them. My proposal was that we should call the debts due to us, and pay the wages due to the men. I would like to ask Mr. Legge to pay the wages, because he could not know whether they were right or wrong. If they would leave them to him for a week or month the whole thing would be settled.

Mr. LEWIS.—Mr. Hurley, my experience of you is this, that you can twist words just as well as any one I know, also that you can twist figures; therefore I have made the proposal I have.

Mr. HURLEY—I have promised to pay the men on Friday.

Mr. LEWIS.—And how could you do it?

Mr. HURLEY—I have sufficient money. I have \$2,000 unclosed. I have collected \$1500, and provided \$1,000 I think for collection. Everything is in perfect order in the accounts.

Mr. LEWIS.—That remains to be seen.

Mr. MCULLOCH said there was a want of confidence in Mr. Hurley, and Mr. Legge's proposal was to take the matter out of his hands. He suggested the two directors take into their own heads.

Mr. LEWIS expressed his approval of the suggestion.

Mr. FRASER-SMITH said he would much rather it was in Mr. Legge's hands. Captain Anderson had not the time either, but had given his word for a slight compensation would collect the money.

Mr. FRASER-SMITH said he would approve of the arrangement if anything could be done to settle with the men.

Mr. LEWIS.—They will just have to wait a bit; only I think it better that money should be collected differently from what it has been.

Mr. HURLEY—My amendment is that it be left in my hands for a few days and I will give Mr. Legge a schedule. I may pay men in as far as the money and get rid of one set after another.

Mr. LEWIS.—And you have not paid the coal bill for nine months.

Mr. HURLEY—Simply because we have not had the money to pay it. I want to say one thing, that when the inquiry was started we did not get all the money out of John Williams, but myself was the only sufficient one who subscribed to me into the busy season. I came to the conclusion there was really nothing to the inquiry which was regrettable.

The articles were drawn in the alley-way of the sinking steamer like rats in a hole! Surely it would have been a more sensible outcome of the investigation if instead of wandering about the ship, the captain of the *Normanby* had been asked to the kindness of the local Japanese officials and paid him for the damage done to the machinery.

Mr. LEWIS.—I expected to get the machinery, we did not get it, and that threw us into this position.

Mr. LEWIS.—That remains to be seen.

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FOR SALE.

CALIFORNIAN FLOUR.
The Finest FLOUR in the Market is
STAHL & Co.'s well known, best roller made
"DRAGON EXTRA."

STRENGTH AND COLOUR UNPARSED
TRY IT. [120]

FOR SALE.

S. PAULI PILSENER BEER.
Case of 48 quarts at \$12.00.
Case of 96 pints at \$13.00.
RUSSEL & Co.
Hongkong, 21st September, 1886. [180]

FOR SALE.

G. BRAUEREI "ZUR EICHE" KIEL.
\$85 per Case of 4 dozen quarts.

EDWARD SCHELLHASS & Co.,
Sole Agents,
Hongkong and China.
Hongkong, 4th November, 1886. [2073]

FOR SALE.

3 TON CUTTER YACHT.
App'd to
MESSRS. GEO. DENWICK & Co.,
Praya East,
Hongkong, 6th November, 1886. [2086]

FOR SALE.

C HAMPAGNE "MONOPOLE."
—HELDSTECK & Co.—
MONOPOLE RED SEAL (medium dry).
Do. RED FOIL "S&C" (dry).
Do. GOLD FOIL "D" (extra dry).
C A R L O W I T Z & Co.,
Sole Agents for
HELDSTECK & Co., REIMS.
Hongkong, China, and the East.
Hongkong, 1st July, 1885. [1234]

P O RTLAND C E MENT.

J. B. W HITE & B R O S.
Sole Agents for CHINA.
HOLIDAY WISE & Co.
Hongkong, 11th April, 1883. [1782]

FOR SALE.

Y E F F S U N G & C o .
COAL MERCHANTS,
have always on hand
LARGE STOCKS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION OF COAL.
Address—C. of Messrs. Y F F S U N G & Co.,
No. 68, PRAYA. [389]

F O R JAPANESE FANCY GOODS
AND PORCELAIN WARE,
CASSUMBOU, CHINAHOUSE,
(Opposite the HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANK),
is the Cheapest Place in Hongkong.
INSPECTION INVITED.
FURNITURE of every kind at Lowest
Prices. [23]

J O SEPH G ILLOTT'S
S T E E L P E N S.
G O L D M E D A L
P A R I S, 1878.
Sold by all
Stationers and Dealers. [945]

FOR SALE.

C H A S. H ELDSTECK'S
C H A M PAGNE, 1880, White Seal.
\$21.—per case of 1 dozen quarts.
\$22.—per case of 2 dozen quarts.
PAUL DUBOIS & Co.'s.
CLARET, GRAND VIN LEVIOLE.
\$25.—per case of 1 dozen quarts.
CLARET, CHATEAU LAROS.
\$13.—per case of 1 dozen quarts.
WHITE CHAMFER C AKE.
\$14.—per case of 1 dozen quarts.
HONGKONG, 1st April, 1885. [1697]

P H ENIX FIRE OFFICE
The Undersigned are now prepared to
GRANT POLICIES of INSURANCE Against
FIRE at the following Rates—
On First-class European
Tenements, at 1/4 Net per Annum.
On Second-class Godowns,
therein, at 1/4 Net per Annum.
On Costs, at 1/4 Net per Annum.
On Petroleum in
censed Godowns, at 1/4 Net per Annum.
On First-class Chinese
Tenements, at 2 1/2 Net per Annum.
On Second-class Chinese
Tenements, at 2 1/2 Net per Annum.
DOUGLAS LAFRAIK & Co.
Agents for Phoenix Fire Office.
Hongkong, 5th August, 1881. [113]

I MPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COM-
PANY, 1881.—
The Undersigned Agents for the above
Company, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES against
FIRE to the extent of \$60,000 on any
one

FIRST-CLASS RISK.
RATES ON FIRST-CLASS GODOWNS REDUCED
TO 1/4 PER CENT. NET FEES ANNUAL
FROM THIS DAY. [15]

C HINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.—
ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE
YEAR 1885.

S HAREHOLDERS in the above Company
are requested to furnish the Undersigned
with a List of their Contributions for the year
ending 31st December last in order that the
Distribution of the Profits reserved for Con-
tributors may be arranged. Returns not
rendered prior to the Thirtieth day of November
next, will be adjusted by the Company, and no
Claims or Alterations will be subsequently admitted.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
General Managers
HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE CO., Ltd.
Hongkong, 15th October, 1885. [1956]

C HINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
LIMITED.—
ADJUSTMENT OF BONUS FOR THE
YEAR 1885.

S HAREHOLDERS are hereby requested to
send in to this Office a List of their Con-
tributions for the year ending 31st
December last, in order that the Distribution
of Profits for that year to be paid to Con-
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before the 31st November next, will be made up
by the Company, and no subsequent claims or
alterations will be allowed.

By Order of the Directors,
JAS. B. COUGHTRIE,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 1st February, 1882. [1873]

C ALEDONIAN FIRE AND LIFE
INSURANCE COMPANY.—
ESTABLISHED 1805.

The Undersigned having been appointed
Agents for the above Company are prepared to issue Policies of Insurance against Fire
on the usual terms.

ARNHOLD KARBERG & Co.
Hongkong 11th May, 1887. [120]

S Q UARE BOTTLE WHISKY,
NAME JOHNSTON'S BLEND,
Superb Quality,
CUTLER, PALMER & Co's SELECTION.
Apply to
LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.
Hongkong. [2319]

NOW ON SALE.

IMPERIAL QUARTO.

E NG LISH & CHINESE E
DICTIONARY.
WITH THE PUNI AND MANDARIN
An Anglo-Chinese Dictionary published at the
Daily Press Office, Hongkong.

For comprehensive and practical service
this Work stands unrivaled. All the new words which the Chinese have of late years been
compelled to coin to express the numerous ob-
jects in machinery, photography, telegraphy,
and in science generally, which the rapid advance
of these arts has created, are fully illustrated and
explained, forming an excellent
text-book for students of a most instructive nature. Both
the Court and Punti pronunciations are given
the sounds being hitherto marked on the best
principle hitherto attained. The typography
displays the success of an attempt to make the
Chinese language typewritten in the size
of body thereby offering a very extensive
space, achieving a character not previously
attained, and dispensing with those vast margins
and vacant spaces which have heretofore characterized Chinese publications.

To illustrate the vast scope of the work
following facts are submitted for consideration—
Chinaman's Vocabulary contains about 16,000
Chinese words, and the English—
Chinese Dictionary about 100,000 words,
and this work contains more than 50,000 English
words, and upwards of 600,000 Chinese characters.
Again, despite all the grammars and other elementary works as yet published, the
student of this difficult language absolutely requires
examples to display the various applications
and equivalents of different words which
have the general meaning. Of these examples
this work contains more than five times as
many as any other Dictionary hitherto published.

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F IRE INSURANCE COMPANY,
OF

MAIL SUPPLEMENT TO THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS.

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH, 1886.

HONGKONG PUBLIC WORKS AND WAYS AND MEANS.

In his speech in opening the 1885-86 session of the Legislative Council Sir George Bowen drew attention to the fact that the taxation of the Colony, both general and municipal, did not exceed £1 per head of the population, whereas the aggregate taxation per head of the people of England and of the Australasian colonies exceeds £3 per head. These figures do not prove, however, that Hongkong is a lightly taxed colony. To decide whether a man is lightly or heavily taxed it is necessary to look, not so much at the aggregate amount of his taxes, as at the proportion that amount bears to his total income. If the Chinese working population with their small wages—say £6 or £1 per month—were called upon to pay the same taxation as the better paid working men of England and Australia they would break down under the burden. It is clear, therefore, that we cannot institute any correct comparison between the taxation of places where the conditions are so widely different—different not only in respect to the rate of wages and the value of money but also in respect to the style of living. We do not wish to be taken as saying that the Chinese population of Hongkong is overtaxed, but we do think that taxation has reached a point which ought to be looked on as its limit. Our European readers will share with us in this feeling, we think, because they are more heavily taxed than the Chinese, and in this way, that whereas the Chinese had to gather in their tenements and so distribute the house tax over a large number of persons, houses tenanted by Europeans have much fewer occupants and the ratio of taxation is therefore higher. Let us take the case of a European with a fixed salary of say £200 a month, married, and occupying a house at a rent of say £40. His house tax would amount to £62.40 per annum, and indirect taxation might be taken as bringing the amount up to at least £55, which, being added to the rent, gives a total of £55, or nearly a quarter of his income. We have purposely taken the case of a man with a small salary as best showing where the shoe pinches. Of course the larger a person's income the less the pressure of taxation, but for people with small incomes Hongkong is undoubtedly an expensive place. Both rents and taxes are high, and unfortunately there is every prospect of at least the former continuing to increase, the amount of building land in the colony being limited while the population is daily growing. Perhaps the Land Commission may be able to make some recommendations to provide for the increasing population without further over crowding the areas already occupied with dwellings, but we cannot expect to see rents reduced. The probability is that, notwithstanding any course of action which may be adopted on the recommendation of the Land Commission, rents will increase, and it is certain that in the future can be that they will not decrease. This being so, it is all important that the rate of taxation should not be further increased. Actually any increase of rent means an increase of taxation, as the house tax is computed on the rent; if in addition to this increase the percentage of the tax is also increased, the burden on the tenant grows at a compound rate. It has already been found necessary to raise the tax from twelve per cent to thirteen. Beyond that figure the rates should insist that it shall not go.

Unfortunately such representation as we enjoy in the Legislative Council is practically one of wealth only; persons of moderate means do not find a place in the constituency either of the member for the Chamber of Commerce or the member for the Bench of Justices. Mr. MacEwan, however, in his speech to the Chamber when elected, intimated that he would look upon himself as the representative of the ratepayers in general, and the other unofficial members, we have no doubt, take the same view. This being so, we hold that it is the duty of the unofficial members to keep a close eye on the finances of the colony, and to see that the expenditure is not allowed to exceed the revenue. In former days the unofficial members were supposed to act as a check on the extravagance of the Government; now the position would seem to be reversed, and it is the Government that has to uphold economy. Doubtless there are many public works urgently required, but after all every question of this kind resolves itself into one of dollars and cents, and it is better to defer the construction of works for which we cannot at present afford to pay. If the house-tax were increased to twenty per cent, a great deal might be done in the way of improvements, and perhaps the unofficial members themselves and their immediate constituents might not feel the weight of the burden very much, but to many of their less well-to-do fellow residents it would make life a fearful trial. The question of drainage is one of the most pressing, and at the Council meeting on Friday the Surveyor-General urged the importance of landslips improving the drainage of their houses. The first cost, of course, will have to be paid by the landlords, but ultimately it will come out of the pocket of the tenants. Persons who are always urging this, that, and the other expenditure will do well to bear in mind that the piper will have to be paid by some means. But let us from time to time say that the real difficulty probably would be to find a market for the reclamation work, the necessity for which has been amply demonstrated, but not fully understood when we have the means to pay for them. All we contend for is that, when public works are under discussion we should bear in mind the wants of our poor and cut our cost according to our cloth. Especially would we propose any expenditure on piecemeal work not intended to be permanent, such, for instance, as the expenditure of thousands of dollars on a market which is to be demolished in the course of a year or so; or on tinkering a drainage system which is to be wholly reconstructed within a very short space of time. It is not difficult to arrive at the approximate limit of our resources on the basis of the present revenue and expenditure of the Colony, and up to this limit we may safely work. In 1885 the revenue, exclusive of premiums on land sales, was \$1,251,829, and the ordinary expenditure \$1,145,103, leaving a balance of \$105,735. We may therefore take \$100,000 as about the sum available for payment of interest or loan, and it is only on borrowed money that any expenditure can now be carried on. Up to this amount, "the colonists may safely borrow, and I fail to see why they should be any timidity in doing so. The revenue has steadily increased in the past, and there is every prospect of its increasing as steadily in the future. The development of Kowloon, of Kennedy Town, and of the Eastern district fall means so much more income to the exchequer, and the increase ought to be more than sufficient to keep pace with the increase in the ordinary expenditure. Now, the amount already arranged to be borrowed—and which has been already

practically appropriated is \$1,000,000. Our resources would warrant the doubling of that amount, but the extra million would not go very far when we come to work like the reconstruction of the drainage, the extension of the Praya, the formation of a park at Wong-nai-chong, etc. It is true, as the Colonial Treasurer says, that we will always have half-a-dozen uses for every dollar in the Treasury, and the ratepayers must look to their representatives to put it to the use that will be of most advantage to the colony, always bearing in mind that the expenditure must be kept within the limits of the present rate of taxation, and, if possible, within such limits as will admit of the reduction of the house tax to its old rate of 12 per cent.

THE PROJECTED NEW CENTRAL MARKET.

Among the public works now in contemplation the construction of a new Central Market claims perhaps for the moment the largest share of interest. It is now about three years since the Surveyor-General first presented his plan for a New Market, the extent of which had been recognised for a long period antecedent to that date. Mr. Price's scheme, which is for an enlarged as well as for a completely new market, involved the resumption of some ground, and this necessarily took time. The property has now, however, all been acquired, and the only thing that remains to be done is to find the money to start the work of demolition and reconstruction. Some little difficulty is being experienced, we believe, in finding a site for a temporary market while the new structure is in course of creation. Ground is exceedingly scarce in the city of Victoria, open spaces are few and far between, and are not too small to accommodate a very large fabric. There is a small unoccupied space at the junction of Wing Lok Street with the Praya which might possibly afford a site for this new market, but it would not give accommodation for all the denizens of the Central Market. Possibly the butchers might find a separate habitation, and the confectioners would have to take shops, leaving the market to the vendors of fish, fruit, and vegetables, &c., until such time as the new market arrives at completion. The ground at the back of the building known as Crosby's Store might certainly be used, but to that there are many objections, as it would constitute a great nuisance to the Supreme Court, and the European bazaar which is surrounded by the walls of the said building.

The Bill gives the Registrar-General, as such, the power of inflicting fines up to the amount of \$500, and in default of payment, sending the delinquent to gaol for six months. Powers of this kind should only be vested in regularly established tribunals; if once the principle be admitted of wasting powers of law and imprisonment in individual officials by virtue of their office and not as judges or magistrates, where is it to end? The penalty to which we have referred is for failure to attend before the Registrar-General when called upon, and is not one of the main provisions of the Bill. It would be easy to alter the section so that persons making such failure should be prosecuted against in the ordinary way before a Police Magistrate. It is a matter of detail, important in itself, but which may be left out of consideration in considering the main principle of the Bill. The first section provides that "On any complaint being made to the Registrar-General that any female child between the ages of six and sixteen years is in the custody or under the control of any person in the colony with the view of being trained or disposed of as a prostitute it shall be lawful for the Registrar-General to summon before him the said complainant, requiring him, at the same time the production of the said child, and to make full inquiry into the said complaint." Section 2 provides that the Registrar-General may associate with him in the said inquiry two or more Chinese Justices of the Peace or other Chinese persons designated by the Governor. Such association is not made compulsory, nor are the powers of the associates of any way defined. The decision is left entirely to the Registrar-General, who, on being satisfied that the child is to be dealt with in an improper way, may make an order for its proper custody, or, if he thinks fit to leave it with the person against whom the complaint has been lodged, may require security in an unlimited amount for its proper care and bringing up. Section 4 provides that the Registrar-General may proceed against any person or disposed of as a prostitute it shall be lawful for the Registrar-General to summon before him the said complainant, requiring him, at the same time the production of the said child, and to make full inquiry into the said complaint." Section 2 provides that the Registrar-General may associate with him in the said inquiry two or more Chinese Justices of the Peace or other Chinese persons designated by the Governor. Such association is not made compulsory, nor are the powers of the associates of any way defined. 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